



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES
TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET**

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Dr. Jonathan W. Gassett
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TO: Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission

FROM: Darin K. Moore, Director, Administrative Services Division

DATE: February 4, 2011

RE: Summary Update on Second Quarter Strategic Plan Progress: FY 2011

Since adoption of the KDFWR Strategic Plan FY 2008-2012, the Department has made noticeable strides and progress on a number of strategic and operational objectives. To date, more than 60% of the 86 original operational objectives have been accomplished; whereas KDFWR continues to achieve success on many of the revised objectives, which had their target in a sense "moved up" so that the department would continue reaching toward our primary goals.

Many of these objectives, such as stream mitigation, forestland habitat, National Fish Habitat Initiatives, annual public meetings and attendance at KLS Federation Meetings, and public access agreements require KDFWR to achieve a specific level each year. For these, KDFWR has been successful incorporating such achievements as a new standard operating practice.

The department continues to develop strategies and action plans to help realize our operational objectives, which include original, revised and annual-target objectives. The department is preparing for the next step in our planning process, which will include a re-evaluation of our strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats, and subsequently a re-formulated Strategic Plan for the next five years.

Listed below is a summary of the department's efforts toward achieving specific operational objectives during the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2011. Additional reports can continue to be found on KDFWR's website at <https://fw.ky.gov>.

Operational Objective	Past Achievements	2nd Qtr FY 2011 Progress
<p>1.1.d To rehabilitate and deepen at least one Department-owned lake by the end of 2012.</p>	<p>During FY 2008, the Engineering Division surveyed Kincaid Lake as a possible site for rehabilitation. The next two fiscal years saw the bathometric survey completed on Kincaid Lake and the shoreline surveyed to complete the mapping, as well as evaluation of the silt load and dredging (or raising) possibilities for the lake. The potential for selective dredging was even examined and discussed at a local public forum in the summer of 2010.</p>	<p>Since local residents expressed dissatisfaction with any lake drawdown—a consequence of dredging—the department has begun to examine the potential for increasing the lake level, which must be coordinated with the Division of Water for purposes of Dam safety. The Division of Water (DOW) has most recently indicated that there is the potential for an increase in the lake level, based on initial modeling. KDFWR will be working with DOW and the Finance and Administration Cabinet to provide additional data and contract an engineering firm to perform a “feasibility study” before DOW can conclusively rule on the possibility of a lake level change (without a change in dam height or spillway). Hopefully, this study can be completed in 2011.</p>
<p>1.3.b. To increase acres of wetland habitat, development, restoration, or enhancement by 25 percent annually by the end of FY 2012.</p>	<p>In the past, NRCS has provided Kentucky landowners with more than \$29 million to restore over 17,000 acres of cropland, pasture land and other altered lands to their original wetland conditions. In 2010, NRCS in partnership with KDFWR and other agencies, worked with 29 private landowners to voluntarily enroll more than 2,200 acres at an estimated purchase cost of over \$6 million, the highest amount ever in a single year for Kentucky</p>	<p>In December, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kentucky began accepting applications for new contracts in the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Upcoming applications ranking cut-off dates are January 3, 2011; April 8, 2011; and June 17, 2011. This program continues to offer landowners the opportunity to protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property.</p>

Operational Objective	Past Achievements	2nd Qtr FY 2011 Progress
<p>1.5.b. To develop and implement long-range plans for the following big game populations by the end of FY 2010: Deer; Elk; Bear; and Turkey.</p>	<p>In FY 2009, Elk and Bear Management Plans were updated and implemented.</p> <p>In FY 2010, the department's Deer Management Plan reached final draft form, based on a series of six public meetings to gather input from hunters, landowners and concerned citizens about deer management in the coming years.</p>	<p>During this past quarter and thanks in part to appropriate planning, the department and hunters in Kentucky enjoyed first successful bear hunt, when Danny Smith of Phelps, Kentucky claimed the state's first legally harvested black bear in the modern era. The 265-pound male bear was taken in Pike County about five hours into his hunt. Billy Joe Dixon, of Cumberland, took a 280-pound male on the second day.</p>
<p>1.5.g. To update the state wildlife action plan by the end of FY 2010.</p>	<p>Efforts to update Kentucky's State Wildlife Action Plan have continued since the beginning of the Strategic Plan. In previous years, KDFWR sought input (via printed copies and posted online); developed the "Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Annual Research Highlights" which detailed how projects addressed conservation actions listed in Kentucky's Wildlife Action Plan, as well as partnered with other agencies and NGOs to update our list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Priority Conservation Areas.</p>	<p>The department has completed the update of the State Wildlife Action Plan.</p>
<p>2.1.a. To build or renovate 6 boating access sites per year by the end of FY2012.</p>	<p>Over three years, KDFWR has built or renovated 30 different access sites: Russell, McLean, Henderson, Daviess, Allen, Anderson in FY 2008; Muhlenberg (Lake Malone), Nicholas (Clay WMA), Oldham (Westport), Pendleton (Kincaid Ramp), Clinton (Dale Hollow), Webster (Sebree) in FY 2009; and Carroll (Ghent Ramp), Gallatin (Craig's Creek Ramp), Perry (Hazard Ramp), Bullitt (Shepherdsville Ramp), Clay (Oneida), Madison (College Hill), and Whitley (Redbird) in FY 2010. In the first quarter of FY 2011, KDFWR completed the Taylorsville Lake Tail water Ramp and the City of Taylorsville Ramp (Spencer); Barbourville Boat Ramp (Knox); Rebuild of Bee Creek Ramp (Whitley); while also having asphalted Robinson</p>	<p>During the 2nd quarter of FY 2011, the Engineering Division has supported the build or renovation of five (5) ramps in Western Kentucky. These include Fish Lake, Buck Lake, Prairie Lake, Flat Lake and Beaver Dam Lake.</p>

	Dam Ramp (Harrison); the Poosey Ridge Ramp (Madison) and the Frank Brown Ramp (Estill).	
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2.1.c. To increase the number of wildlife viewing sites by 3 sites per year by the end of FY 2012.	In previous years, the department completed a new map of all wildlife viewing sites throughout the Commonwealth; presented at symposiums and conferences to promote wildlife viewing and tourism in Kentucky; and dedicated its newest elk viewing area: the Will Marshall Elk Viewing Area located at the Paul Van Booven Wildlife Management Area (WMA) near the Breathitt-Perry County line.	<p>In October of this Fiscal Year, KDFWR promoted wildlife watching with two initiatives. The department announced how researchers and wildlife enthusiasts can now go online to track the movements of two bald eagles hatched in Kentucky earlier last year. The transmitters represented the first bald eagle satellite tracking project tried in Kentucky.</p> <p>Also, on October 23, the department hosted wildlife photographer, Kim Graham, for a beginner-level photography class designed for nature enthusiasts at the Salato Wildlife Education Center.</p>
3.4.b. To hold at least five regional public meetings annually by the end of FY 2012.	For the last three fiscal years, the Department held a number of public meetings, including but not limited to public workgroup sessions on sport and commercial fishing, Lake Malone, deer and elk management, and small game habitat and restoration.	Beginning this past quarter of FY 2011, KDFWR and the Commission launched nine (9) different Town Hall Meetings throughout the Commonwealth. More than 230 people attended the first meeting on November 29 th and the department eventually had the opportunity to meet and discuss fish and wildlife issues with approximately one

		thousand attendees after all meetings had taken place. Commission members representing the district and leaders of the agency attended.
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4.3.b. b. To develop a separate funding mechanism for acquiring multi-use public access areas by the end of FY 2010.	In the past fiscal year, KDFWR initiated the eventual acquisition of the Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area (formerly known as Otter Creek Park), which represents more than 2,000 acres of new public hunting and fishing opportunity within 30 miles of Louisville. Other users will include hikers, runners, horseback riders, mountain bikers, campers, rock climbers, kayakers, and more.	At the December 3 rd quarterly meeting, the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission established hunting seasons, user fees and other rules for the 2,155-acre Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area in Meade County. The Otter Creek ORA represents the first multi-use public access area for KDFWR where non-traditional users will have the ability to pay to use the area. This new revenue stream will provide a separate funding mechanism to assist in managing OCORA.